

SPORT FISHING

Emergency Order

ALASKA DEPARTMENT
OF FISH & GAME

Under Authority of AS 16.05.060

Emergency Order No. 2-RS-6-22-04

Issued at: Anchorage, Wednesday, August 25, 2004

Effective Date: 12:01 a.m. Friday, August 27, 2004

Expiration Date: 11:59 p.m., Friday, December 31, 2004, unless superseded by subsequent emergency order.

EXPLANATION:

This emergency order prohibits the retention of sockeye salmon while sport fishing in all waters of Eshamy Creek drainage and lagoon from the department regulatory markers on the lagoon shore (about ½ mile on either side of the ADF&G cabin) upstream and including the entire drainage. This emergency order is effective at 12:01 a.m., Friday, August 27, 2004.

REGULATION:

The provisions of 5 AAC 55.023. SPECIAL PROVISIONS FOR SEASONS; BAG, POSSESSION, AND SIZE LIMITS; AND METHODS AND MEANS FOR THE PRINCE WILLIAM SOUND AREA. (1)(D) are superceded by this emergency order. Under this emergency order, the following provisions are effective from 12:01 a.m., Friday, August 27, 2004:

5 AAC 55.023. SPECIAL PROVISIONS FOR SEASONS; BAG, POSSESSION, AND SIZE LIMITS; AND METHODS AND MEANS FOR THE PRINCE WILLIAM SOUND AREA.

(1)(D) Eshamy Lagoon and Eshamy Drainage: bag limit of six fish and possession limit of 12 fish, of which only three per day three in possession may be coho salmon; and no sockeye salmon may be retained.

Kevin C. Duffy
Commissioner

By delegation to:

Brian H. Marston
Assistant Area Management Biologist

JUSTIFICATION:

Typically as of August 23, sockeye salmon run escapement counted at the ADF& G weir has surpassed the lower end of the escapement goal range of 20,000 to 40,000 sockeye salmon. As of August 23, 2004, Eshamy Creek sockeye salmon escapement is 11,697 versus an anticipated escapement of 22,516. On average, approximately 75% of the escapement has passed the weir by August 23. At this time the total sockeye salmon escapement is projected to be approximately 16,000 fish, well below the escapement goal range. High tides of the month have passed and rainfall, which often aids escapement, continues to be low. As provided by 5 AAC 75.003. EMERGENCY ORDER AUTHORITY (1)(A), the department has emergency order authority to decrease sport fish bag and possession limits when the total escapement is projected to be less than the lower end of the escapement goal range. Therefore, it is warranted to prohibit the retention of sockeye salmon while sport fishing in the Eshamy Creek drainage and lagoon until the escapement goal has been met.

DISTRIBUTION:

The distribution list for this emergency order is on file at the Region 2 Office of Alaska Department of Fish and Game, Division of Sport Fish, 333 Raspberry Road, Anchorage, AK 99518, (907) 267-2218.